Middle Columbia
Salmon Recovery Region

The Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Region is located in central Washington along the east slope of the Cascade Mountains. Public forests and farms dominate the forested, mountainous terrain and dry, shrub-steppe hills that cover most of the region. It includes the Columbia River and its tributaries entering from the west and north from the Yakima River to the Big White Salmon River.

The draft recovery plan was completed in June 2005 and posted in the Federal Register in May 2006. The plan covers Yakima River Basin portions of the Middle Columbia River steelhead listing, which includes the Columbia River Basin and tributaries upstream from the Wind River to and including the Yakima River and excluding the Snake River. The plan also addresses a bull trout "core" area in the Yakima Basin.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS DRIVDAHL

Key Facts

LISTED FISH

Steelhead (threatened)
Bull trout (threatened)

MAJOR FACTORS LIMITING RECOVERY

▶ Hydropower system mortality on Columbia River

▶ Impaired stream flows in tributaries

▶ Barriers to fish passage in tributaries

▶ Excessive sedimentation

▶ Degraded riparian habitat

▶ Degraded water quality and temperature

▶ Altered channel morphology

RECOVERY PLANNING STATUS

Draft recovery plan for Yakima basin portion of mid-Columbia steelhead and bull trout completed in June 2005 and posted in Federal Register in May 2006.

REGIONAL RECOVERY ORGANIZATION

Yakima Sub-basin Fish and Wildlife Planning Board.
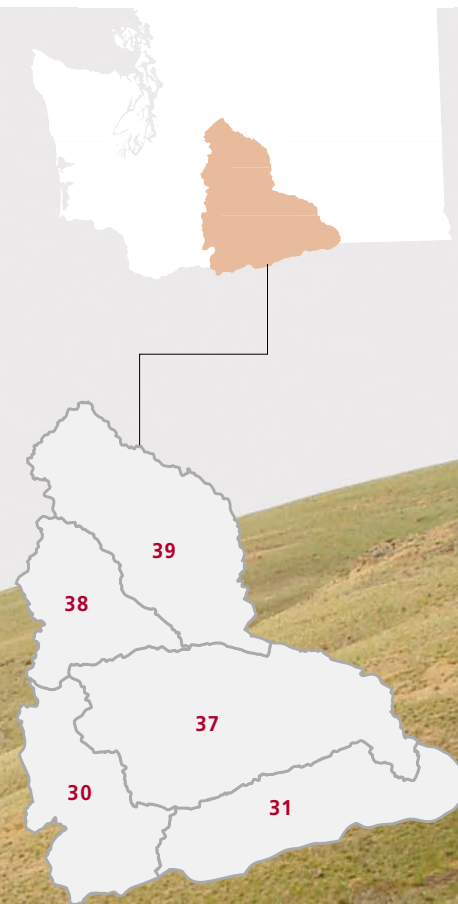
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

Yakama Nation.

COUNTIES

Benton, Kittitas, Yakima, parts of Chelan and Klickitat.

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREAS (WRIAs)

30 Klickitat
31 Rock-Glade
37 Lower Yakima
38 Naches
39 Upper Yakima
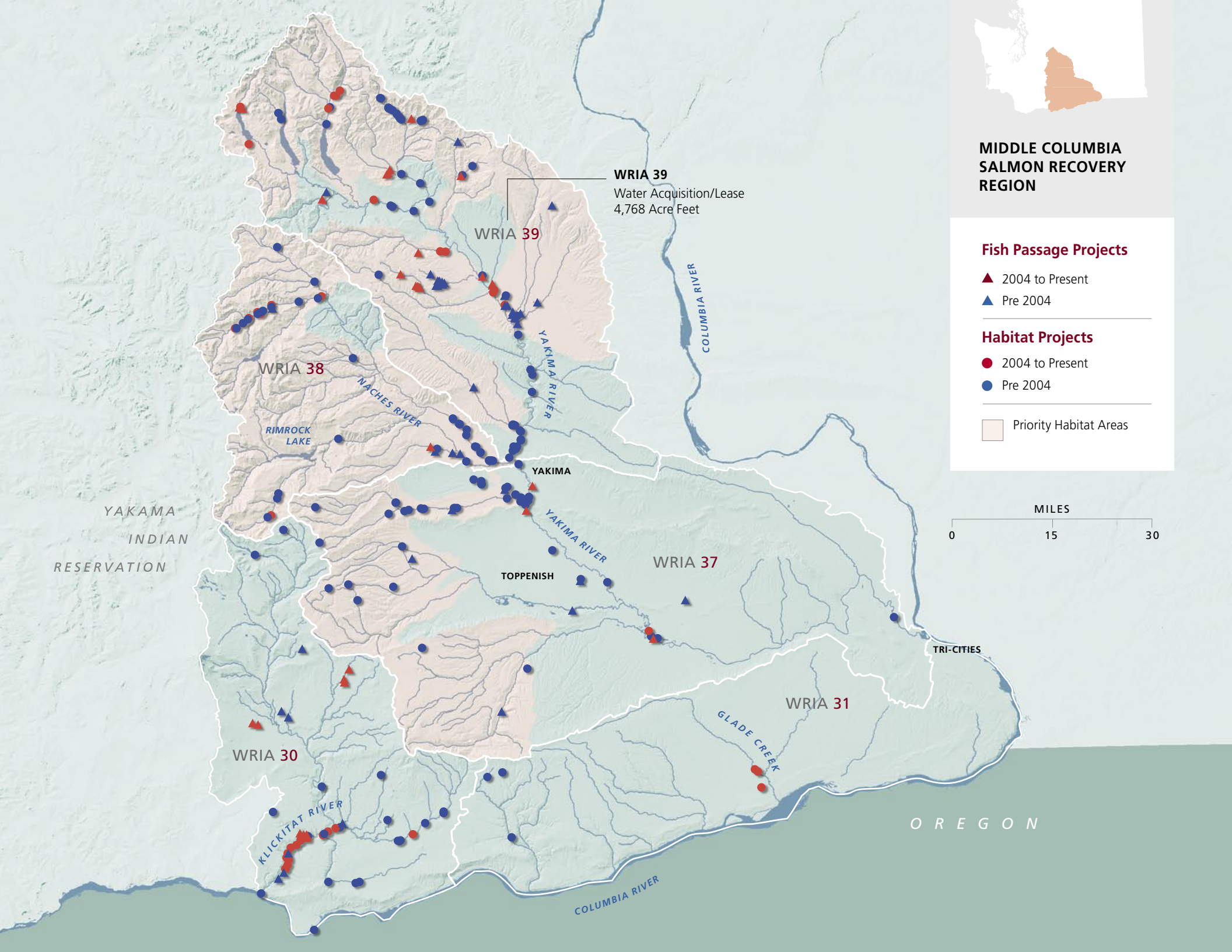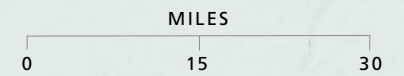
MIDDLE COLUMBIA
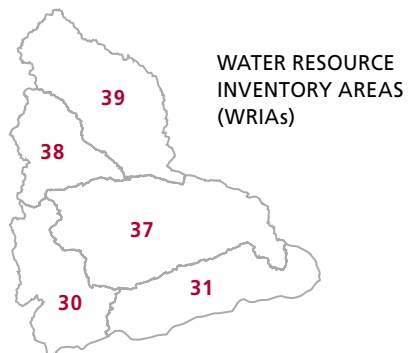SALMON RECOVERY
REGION

Fish Passage Projects

▲ 2004 to Present

▲ Pre 2004

Habitat Projects

● 2004 to Present

● Pre 2004

☐ Priority Habitat Areas

WRIA 39
Water Acquisition/Lease
4,768 Acre Feet

WRIA 39

COLUMBIA RIVER

WRIA 38

NACHES RIVER

RIMROCK LAKE

YAKIMA RIVER

YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION

YAKIMA

TOPPENISH

WRIA 37

YAKIMA RIVER

MILES
0   15   30

TRI-CITIES

WRIA 31

GLADE CREEK

WRIA 30

KLICKITAT RIVER

OREGON

COLUMBIA RIVER

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREAS (WRIAs)

39
38
37
30 31

Watershed Cleanup Plans

	Plans Underway or Completed	Plans Needed
WRIA **30**	20	5
WRIA **31**	11	13
WRIA **37**	14	93
WRIA **38**	3	36
WRIA **39**	67	40

Fish Status

	Healthy	Depressed
Chinook	56%	44%
Coho		Unknown
Steelhead		100%
Bull trout		100%

Listed
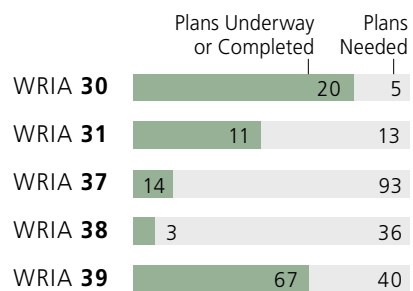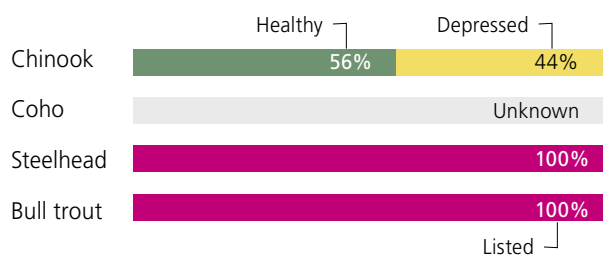
YAKIMA MPG

Steelhead Wild Adult Abundance[20] Yakima MPG

ANNUAL AVERAGE

5,750 Spawner Goal

2,963 Total

938 Total

■ Spawners
■ River Harvest

Pre-Listing   Post-Listing
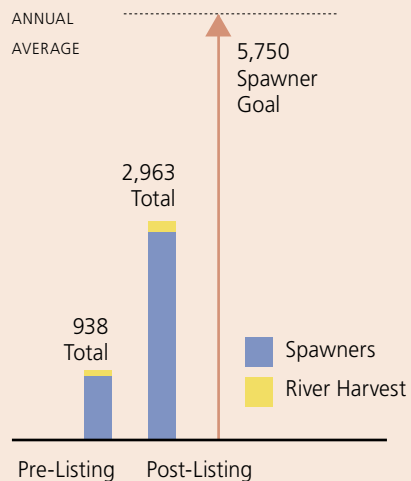
Steelhead Wild Juvenile Production[21] Since Listing

200%

100%

0%

Decrease 12%
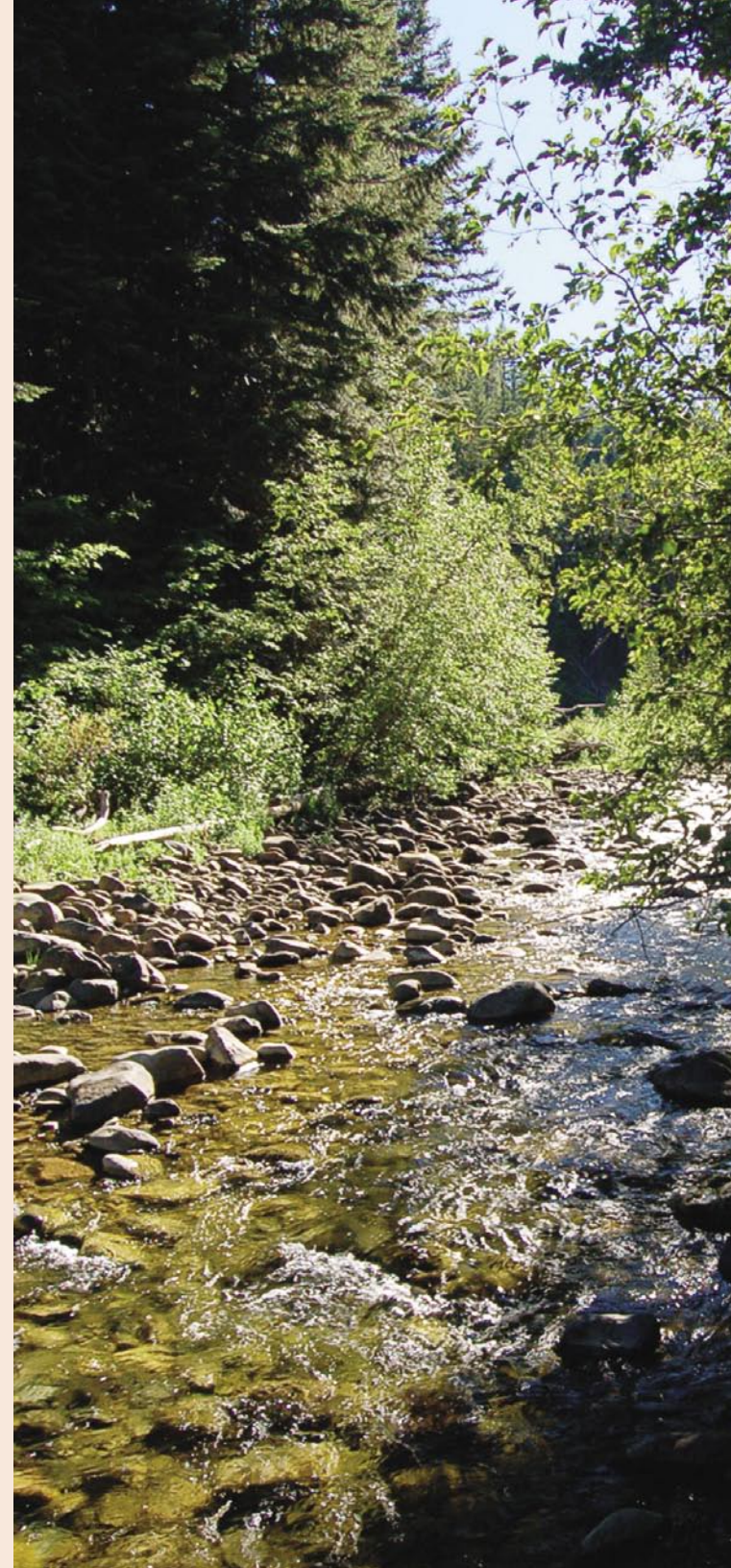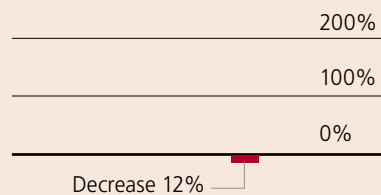
Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

UPPER YAKIMA
BASIN

WRIA

39

WATER
RESOURCE
INVENTORY
AREA

Watershed Watch
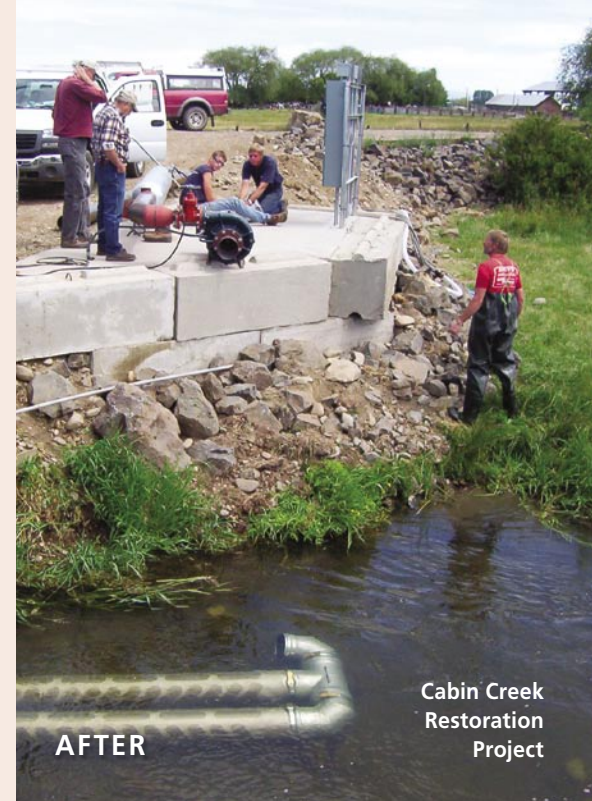## Upper Yakima Basin WRIA 39

The upper Yakima River watershed, located in Kittitas and Yakima Counties, drains almost 2,135 square miles (1,366,400 acres) of land. The river, nearly 100 miles long, has a gentle gradient and once supported extensive floodplains, channels, and headwater lakes; however, three large storage reservoirs have radically changed the nature of the river systems.

About 47% of the watershed is in federal ownership, including Forest Service and military, and 11% is under state management. Around 16% is zoned agricultural, not including rangelands which are significant. Population in the watershed exceeds 55,000 people. Kittitas County and its cities, such as Ellensburg, Cle Elum, Ronald, and Roslyn, are experiencing considerable population growth from new development. In rural areas and smaller cities, this development is mostly conversion of forested lands to residential development. Near Ellensburg, agricultural lands are being converted to residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

Cabin Creek Restoration Project

AFTER

Cabin Creek Fish Passage Project
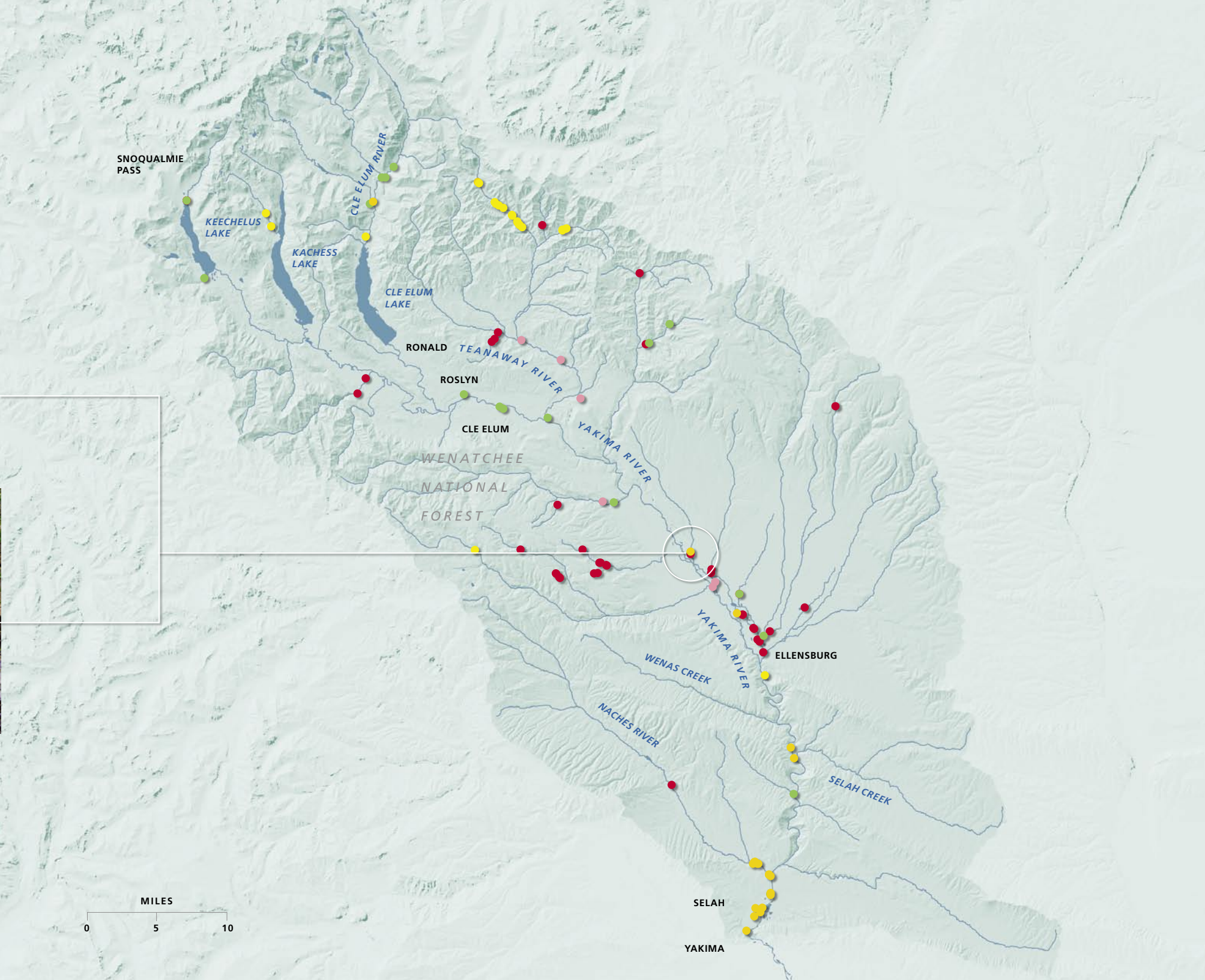
BEFORE

Community Work Party at Holmes Floodplain Restoration

RESTORATION PROJECTS

- ● Fish Passage
- ● Riparian
- ● Instream Habitat
- ● Instream Flows
- ● Estuary
- ● Upland
- ● Miscellaneous

SNOQUALMIE
PASS

CLE ELUM RIVER

KEECHELUS
LAKE

KACHESS
LAKE

CLE ELUM
LAKE

RONALD

TEANAWAY RIVER

ROSLYN

CLE ELUM

YAKIMA RIVER

WENATCHEE

NATIONAL

FOREST

WENAS CREEK

YAKIMA RIVER

ELLENSBURG

NACHES RIVER

SELAH CREEK

MILES

0   5   10

SELAH

YAKIMA

Are hydroelectric facilities operating in a "fish friendly" manner?

Indicator	Measured Results
FERC-licensed facilities	There are no FERC-licensed facilities in WRIA 39

Are streams accessible to wild salmon?

Indicator	Measured Results
Inventory of major blockages	Complete barriers: 8 Partial barriers: 18
Miles of anadromous waters inaccessible	Not available

Are listed populations abundant and productive?

Indicator	Measured Results
Run size achieved, 5 year average pre- and post listing. Wild component of Yakima Major Population Group.	Pre-listing: 938 Post-listing: 2,963
Juvenile production achieved (baseline mean)	36,966

Is water clean enough to support wild salmon?

Indicator	Measured Results
Water quality index parameters	Fecal coliform: 14 / 4 Dissolved oxygen: 19 / 2 pH: 26 / 1 Temperature: 45 / 28

Stream segments meeting standard
Stream segments not meeting standard

Do rivers and streams have flows that support wild salmon?

Indicator	Measured Results
Instream flows set	No state instream flows set; basin is managed via federal basin adjudication process
Percent of time flow met during fish critical period **August 1 to September 30**	Not applicable. Flow regimes are negotiated annually to meet available water supply

Does harvest management protect wild salmon?

Indicator	Measured Results
Wild spawners 5 year average pre- and post listing (Yakima MPG scale)	Pre-listing 840 / Post-listing 2,801 — RECOVERY PLAN ESCAPEMENT GOAL 5,750
Percent of wild salmon run that is harvested, 5 year average pre- and post listing (Yakima MPG scale)	Pre-listing 10% / Post listing 5%

Do hatchery practices meet the needs of wild salmon?

Indicator	Measured Results
Does a scientific evaluation of practices exist?	No WDFW hatchery in this watershed. WRIA 37 hatchery reconditions kelt for this watershed; recovery plan actions begun. Hatchery Scientific Review Group review pending.
If so, what actions have been accomplished?	1 Ongoing / 1 Not Begun